

**Amendments to the Claims:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:*

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing a content object over a network system, the method comprising step of:

detecting a request to obtain for the content object from associated with one of a plurality of content providers coupled to a network that uses a first transport protocol;

redirecting the request to a node of the network different than the content provider;

receiving at least a portion of the content object at the a-node of the network from the one of the plurality of content providers;

storing the content object at the node;

buffering the content object at a point distant from the one of the plurality of content providers and the content receiver; and

transporting the content object between the node and a content receiver with a second transport protocol, wherein the first transport protocol is different from the second transport protocol.

2. (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the node buffer stores at least a portion of the content object for use by a plurality of content receivers.

3. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the transporting step further comprises steps of:

selecting a channel on a conductor with multiple channels corresponding to frequency ranges;

multiplexing a plurality of content objects into a data stream; and

modulating the data stream onto a carrier frequency within the channel.

4. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of communicating to the content receiver information that indicates how to filter the content object from the incoming information.

5. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the content object comprises at least one of audio data and video data.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the content object is encoded in a first format at the one of the plurality of content providers, the method further comprising:

before transporting the content object, transcoding, at the node, the content object from the first format to a second format at the node, and different from the first format is different from the second format.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the content object is encoded in at a first data rate at the one of the plurality of content providers, the method further comprising:

before transporting the content object, transcoding, at the node, the content object from the first data rate to a second data rate at the node, and the first data rate is different from the second data rate.

8. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein:

Amdt. dated December 8, 2004

Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2004

the content object is encoded in a first format for the first transport protocol,

the content object is encoded in a second format for the second transport protocol,

and

the first format is different from the second format.

9. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the content object is encoded at a first data rate for the first transport protocol,

the content object is encoded at a second data rate for the second transport protocol, and

the first data rate is different from the second data rate.

10. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the transporting step comprises a step of coupling the content object to at least one of a hybrid fiber/coaxial plant, a hybrid fiber/twisted pair plant and a wireless plant.

11. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the second transport protocol comprises an MPEG-2 transport protocol.

12. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the second transport protocol comprises packetized content object constituents in a multiplexed data stream where the constituents are distinguished within the multiplexed datastream with program identifiers and are reconstituted into the content object in synchronization using embedded time stamps.

13. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network comprises an Internet protocol packet network to transport content objects separate from the Internet.

14. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 1, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

15. (Currently Amended) A content distribution system for coupling content between a content provider and a content receiver, the content distribution system comprising:

a node that relays a content object that originated from the content provider and stores portions of content objects in at least one of a cache and a file system;

a network coupling the content provider to the node, wherein the network uses a first transport protocol;

a data channel coupling the node to the content receiver, wherein content object is transported with the data channel using MPEG-2 transport protocol.

16. (Original) The content distribution system for coupling content between the content provider and the content receiver as recited in claim 15, further comprising an access control system that controls access to the wide area network.

17. (Original) The content distribution system for coupling content between the content provider and the content receiver as recited in claim 15, further comprising:

a multiplexer coupled to the node, and

a modulator coupled to the data channel.

18. (Original) The content distribution system for coupling content between the content provider and the content receiver as recited in claim 15, wherein the content receiver receives the content object encoded in a MPEG format.

19. (Currently Amended) The content distribution system for coupling content between the content provider and the content receiver as recited in claim 15, wherein the node stores portions of content objects in ~~at least one of a first in first out methodology and a standard filing system with expiration triggers.~~

20. (Original) A method for distributing a content object over a network system, the method comprising step of:

detecting a request for the content object associated with one of a plurality of content providers coupled to a network that uses a first transport protocol;

sending the content object from one of the plurality of content providers to a cache with the network; and

transporting the content object between the cache and a content receiver with a second transport protocol different from the first transport protocol.

21. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 20, wherein the transporting step further comprises steps of:

selecting a channel on a conductor with multiple channels corresponding to frequency ranges;

multiplexing a plurality of content objects into a data stream; and

modulating the data stream onto a carrier frequency within the channel.

22. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 20, further comprising a step of communicating to the content receiver information that indicates how to filter the content object from the incoming information.

23. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 20, wherein the second transport protocol comprises an MPEG-2 transport protocol.

24. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 20, wherein the second transport protocol comprises packetized content object constituents in a multiplexed data stream where the constituents are distinguished within the multiplexed datastream with program identifiers and are reconstituted into the content object in synchronization using embedded time stamps.

25. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 20, wherein the network comprises an Internet protocol packet network to transport content objects separate from the Internet.

26. (Original) The method for distributing the content object over the network system as recited in claim 20, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein transporting the content object comprises:

transporting the content object with the first transport protocol from the node to a headend associated with a cable operator; and

transporting the content object with the second transport protocol from the headend to the content receiver.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein transporting the content object comprises:

transcoding the content object at the node from a first coding format to a second coding format; and

transporting the transcoded content object from the node to a headend associated with a cable operator.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein transporting the content object comprises:

transporting the content object from the node to a point of presence communicating with a plurality of video digital subscriber line (VDSL) set tops.

30. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
before receiving the content object, transcoding the content object at the one of the plurality of content providers from a first coding format to a second coding format; and  
wherein receiving the content object comprises receiving the content object at the node in the second coding format.

31. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a missing portion of the content object at the node from a second node of the network.

32. (New) The content distribution system of claim 15, wherein the data channel couples the node to the content receiver via a headend associated with a cable operator.

33. (New) A method for distributing a content object over a network system comprising:  
detecting a request to obtain the content object from one of a plurality of content providers;  
receiving the content object in a first streaming protocol;  
transcoding the content object from the first streaming protocol to a second streaming protocol; and  
streaming the content object in the second streaming protocol to a content receiver.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein transcoding the content object comprises transcoding the content object to a MPEG-2 transport protocol.